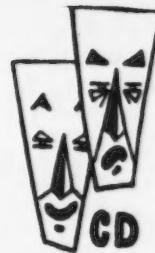


critical digest



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This Week in NYC

Circle in the Square set Mar 28 for debut of unusual repertory system. Under the Milkwood revival of the Dylan Thomas drama directed by William Ball will open on that date to be presented Sun to Thur at 8 40 and Fri at 7 PM. The current production of The Balcony by Jean Genet will continue Fri at 9 30, Sats at 7 and 10 30 and Suns at 2 40 PM. Each will have completely independent companies. If program successful producers may considering including revivals of past Circle hits with their original casts being presented several times per week.

Plays

The Miracle Worker and All the Way Home playing Sun matinees at 3 PM instead of Mon evenings... Under the Yum Yum Tree to close Apr 15 and may open tour Apr 23 in San Francisco... Impulse jazz revue due Mar 29 to play Tues to Sun at 8 40 PM, Fri and Sat 12 midnite and Sat and Sun 3 PM... Rhinoceros performance last Mon halted 12 minutes after Longacre curtain tore between scenes... The Devil's Advocate preview audience had fire scare resulting from smoke from wiring... Donnybrook! set for May 18 at 46th St, making Tenderloin find a new home.

Broadway Business

Variety grosses for week show overall drop with only Do Re Mi and Comedie Francaise selling out. Under the Yum Yum tree is now on "twofers."

Players

Hal Linden replaced Charles Braswell, Wildcat... Gene Rayburn and Gretchen Wyler to replace Dick van Dyke and Chita Rivera, Bye Bye Birdie... Louis Macmillan to direct Mandingo due Apr 27 at Cort... Dean Jones, Under the Yum Yum Tree, to double at Blue Angel starting Mar 30... Martin Charnin replaced Marshall Barer as lyricist for Carte Blanche.

NYC Calendar

A Worm in Horseradish-Maidman (416W 42)-3/13; Dorothy Olim - Gerald Krone present new play by Esther Kaufman, directed by Krone who replaced Sy Syna, with Eli Mintz, Ceña Adler.

The Kid and The Coming Forth by Day of Osiris Jones-De Lys (128-Christopher) 3/14 matinee only. The Greater NY Chapter of ANTA presents two short plays by Conrad Aiken, directed by Fred Stewart with Nan Martin, Patrick O'Neal, Lou Gilbert.

The Importance of Being Oscar-Lyceum 3/14. Roger Stevens presents one man production with Micheal MacLiammoir on the life and works of Oscar Wilde, directed by Hilton Edwards.

Big Fish, Little Fish- ANTA- 3/15. Lewis Allen-Ben Edwards present new play by Hugh Wheeler directed by John Gielgud with Jason Robards Jr, George Voskovec, Ruth White.

Hamlet- Phoenix- 3/16. Phoenix Theatre presents Shakespeare's drama staged by Stuart Vaughan with Donald Madden, Patricia Falkenheim.

Playhouses

Henry Miller Theatre, W 43, to present Italian film "La Dolce Vita" starting Apr 19... Broadway theatre patrons can reserve parking places at Velvex 44 Garage, 305 W 44 LE 4-4444.

Special Events

American Theatre Wing units currently touring NYC high schools with 4 repertory programs... Talent '61 showcase to be presented Apr 25 matinee at Shubert... Electra to be presented starting Mar 23 at Heckscher Theatre, 103rd & 5th, by Institute of Advanced Studies in Theatre Arts, directed by Dimitrios Rondiris, Greek Tragedy Theatre... Latter company to make six week tour of US this summer, including two weeks at NY City Center in Aug.

Off Broadway

Shows that closed include -- 3 Modern Japanese Plays after 45 and Rendezvous at Senlis after 17 performances... The Moon in the Yellow River which closed Mar 4 may re-open Mar 14 if \$500 worth of tickets can be sold during the lay-off. If this is accomplished investor Mrs George Muhlhauser, Canal Fulton, Ohio, will put in additional money to re-open revival... Walk-Up extended to Mar 19, Two for Fun to Mar 26... Ladies Night in Turkish Bath moved debut to Mar 21.

Evening of Chekhov, program of "On the High Road", "The Wedding" and "The Anniversary" to be presented Apr 6 at Key Theatre by Greg Reardon, Amnon Kabatchnik director... The Magnificent Hugo adaptation of pre-war German play by Walter Hasenclever to open Apr 6 at Finch College Auditorium, produced by Elmer Werthiemer... The Painted Days a new comedy by John Byrne due in Apr directed by Sonia Moore and produced by Elliot Martin, stage manager of The Unsinkable Molly Brown... Phoenix considering reviving Cabin in the Sky 1941 musical in June.

Marion Mercer replaced Eileen Brennan, Little Mary Sunshine... Mary Harmon subbing for Louise Troy, Oysters, who is in England for film test... Chanin Hale left Little Mary Sunshine for What a Killing... Nancy Andrews returned to Penny Opera.

Theatre TV Notes

Mar 13 WNTA (NY Play of the Week is Therese Raquin by Emile Zola with Eva LeGallienne, Anne Meacham... Brief Encounter by Noel Coward to be presented Mar 16 on NBC Dinah Shore with Ralph Bellamy.

Theatre Film Notes

View from the Bridge film to star Carol Lawrence... Stefan Gierasch, Roots, and Michael Constantine, Miracle Worker, doubling in "The Hustler" film shot in NYC.



Mary, Mary- Hayes- 3/8. 6 pro- and 1 con- Times- filed on new comedy by Jean Kerr, presented by Roger Stevens, directed by Joseph Anthony with Barbara Bel Geddes, Barry Nelson, Betsy von Furstenberg, Michael Rennie, John Cromwell. Affirmative praise ranged from raves to luke-warm approval of witty comedy, while the single negative labeled comedy a confection like a bit of summer reading. Crist, Herald Tribune (subbing for the author's husband), approved of luscious display of comedy arranged by experts, the only complaint being that gags seem to be inserted when the dialogue runs thin. Chapman, News, greeted the cheerful, tidily wrought and very pleasantly acted romance with the author's skill in making pointed observations about the funny hazards of being human and the smooth, attractive performances. Coleman, Mirror, raved over the sophisticated, fun-filled frolic. Watts, Post, enjoyed combination of wit, grace and charm and all the delightful performances. McClain, Journal American, applauded the hale and hearty hit by one of the world's funniest and richest women, a triumph of lines and situations over a threadbare theme. Aston, World Telegram & Sun, also rated Mrs Kerr one of the funniest women writing today and agreed that play will have vast and prankish appeal. Con voter Taubman, Times, felt characters are rarely more than actors reciting amusing lines, that the play followed a neat pattern which gave no reason for complaint if you do not ask humor to stem profoundly from character. Cast and director were okayed by Times man.

13 Daughters-54th St- 3/2. 3 pros-News, Journal American, World Telegram & Sun- and 4 cons- Times, Herald Tribune, Mirror, Post- filed on new musical comedy about Hawaii with book, music and lyrics by Eaton Magoon, Jr, presented by Jack Silverman, staged by Rod Alexander and Billy Matthews with Don Ameche, Monica Boyer and Sylvia Syms. Pro side found large size musical charming and wholesome in an old-fashioned way, while con side found it more Broadway than Hawaii and especially panned the dull book. Most agreed that dances by Rod Alexander, be they NY or Hawaiian were fine. Chapman, News, recommended the charming, unusual and beautifully mounted musical with the most exciting dances of the season. McClain, Journal American, enjoyed the large, lavish old fashioned musical with style and good taste, perfectly adequate story and some charming music; plus explosive dances. Aston, WTS, raved for big, wholesome entertainment for whole family with music that makes sense and a pretty good story. Dissenter Taubman, Times, could find little to like except its ingenious story that becomes oddly and partly disarming. Otherwise he tabbed the music in the spirit of Broadway and not notable, and the performers agreeable. Kerr, Herald Tribune, panned the innocent, old fashioned, helpless evening with good sets, 13 pretty girls, and the incorruptible Don Ameche who never winces at his material. Coleman, Mirror, reported first night audience liked musical but he thought book was pedestrian with too few laughs, the score pleasant and the lyrics serviceable. Watts, Post, attacked clumsy, dull book for overpowering some nice songs with indifferent lyrics. Without exception reviewers applauded beauty and talent of attractive title players including Diana Corto, Gina Vigilione, Isabelle Farrell.

Roots- Mayfair (Hotel Paramount 265 W 46)- 3/6. 4 pros- Times, Mirror, Post, World Telegram & Sun- and 3 cons- Herald Tribune, News, Journal American filed on new British play by Arnold Wesker, presented by Norman Twain, directed by Mark Rydell with Mary Doyle, Katherine Squire, William Hansen. New 299 seat theatre located on site of former Diamond Horse-shoe was approved as handsome and comfortable by 3 reviewers- Times, News, WTS. Affirmative side headed by Taubman, Times, who okayed warm and rich play of English farm life, a breath of fresh air in a stale theatrical atmosphere. Altshuler, Mirror, approved of universal play by new author, a grand beginning with moments of warmth and laughter. Watts, Post, noted it was a play with excellent things rather than an excellent play; with a kind of rugged integrity, some fresh and original observation of character and a note of stubborn exultation at the end. Post man okayed Doyle in leading role, but added that she couldn't match Joan Plowright's original London conception in the final scene. Aston, WTS, recommended it for its final exciting 15 minutes and for its excellent cast. Negative side headed by Kerr, Herald Tribune, who placed part of blame on Doyle for not bringing two vital parts of her role together, making it more like a 1930 North Carolina folk play ending in an "Editorial." Davis, News, agreed with colleagues author showed moments of excitement, but play itself wasn't much more than pictures of episodes of farm life. McClain, Journal American, found only the final scene exciting in play that was otherwise aimless and dull.

The Cage and 417- Theatre of Today (77-5th Av) 3/5. 2 pros- Times, World Telegram & Sun- and 3 cons- Herald Tribune, Post, Journal American- filed on two short plays by Arthur Vogel and Julian Mayfield, directed by Arthur Reel, presented by Irving Wexler-George Scudder with cast of Howard Wierum, Leslie Rivers, Marguerite Davis. Pros found new point of view in interesting plays, while cons panned amateur playwrighting and acting. Esterow, Times, applauded both plays for their good performances and points of view, though he did recommend the group turn on the air-conditioning. Morello, WTS, okayed 417 as a delicate, often delightful play, but vetoed The Cage.

Five Posts in the Market Place-Gate (162-2nd Av) 3/5. 1 pro-Journal American- and 4 con- Times, Herald Tribune, Post, World Telegram & Sun- filed on new play by Algirdas Landsberg produced by Repertory Company of the Gate Theatre, directed by Sidney Walters with Phil Abbott, Joseph Boley, Barbara Ames. Sole pro voter McClain, Journal American, recommended the promising vitality of the new author with compelling cast contributions. Majority blamed technique of playwright for not properly expressing his ideas, But Gelb, Times, also panned the players and director

Cry of the Raindrop-St Marks (133-2nd Av) 3/7. 1 pro- World Telegram & Sun- and 5 con -Times, Herald Tribune, News, Post, Journal American- filed on new play by Lonny Chapman, presented by Kelsey Marechal- Seymour Litnioff, directed by Robert Paschall with Lou Antonio June Harding, Joan Harvey. Single pro notice was rave from Morello, WTS, who cheered superb play and performances. Con side generally excused players and blamed author for presenting pretentious, poetic bore, lyrical but dull.



GREEN
ROOM
DEPARTMENT



PROS & CONS BY TMK

BWAY REVIVALS URGED... Let the theatre do good old plays if it can't find good new ones, suggests Coleman, Mirror, as an answer to the current Broadway season, which has been disastrous. Most of the entries have been lightweight, the ticket prices high and the weather awful. Reviewer also urged that all facets of theatre collaborate toward making it possible to produce and sell revivals.

COLUMN TIPS... Broadway angels who lost thousands this season are switching to Off Broadway investments, hears Sullivan, News... New "Off Broadway" theatre will be located in Playboy Club, E 59, next to Sherry Netherland Hotel, reports Farrell, World Telegram & Sun... Gertrude Berg upset about casting of Rosiland Russell in Majority of One film, as she understood producers promised her the role, notes Heimer, Mirror.

REVIEWER'S ROLE... Most important quality of the daily drama reviewer is the ability to write rapidly and lucidly, details McClain, Journal American. He should also have a strong affection for the theatre, more than a casual knowledge and he should always answer the readers' basic question "Is the show worth the price?"

CRITICAL THOUGHTS... Quick demise of The Moon in the Yellow River is another blow to the untenable theory that drama critics dictate the taste of playgoers, and it is also a sad commentary on that taste, sighs Watts, Post... If President Kennedy appoints an administrator with a minor cabinet rank to supervise cultural development in this country, Sobol, Journal American, nominates- Howard Cullman, Robert Dowling or Helen Hayes

DRAMA MAIL BOX... While waiting for the theatre to get worse before it could get better we have lost the habit of playgoing and let the television flood pour over us, complains Herald Tribune reader.

HITS REVISITED... Bye Bye Birdie in its 11th month is a better show than when it opened, comments McHarry, News, who took his 9 year old son to a Saturday matinee. The sets and costumes are laundry fresh and all the teenagers in the show are a delight.

THEATRE BOOK COMMENTS... "Harold Arlen: Happy With the Blues" by Edward Jablonski (Doubleday-\$4.95) received milk okay from Funke, Times, who billed it as an interesting story, but felt it could have been a more dimensional portrait.

THEATRE TV COMMENTS... NBC Omnibus survey of avant garde theatre with William Saroyan and segments of plays by Ionesco, Albee, Beckett and Saroyan drew 3 con and 1 pro from TV critics in NY. Gross, News, thought brief scenes were much too short to judge fairly, while current avant garde long run hits were ignored. Bakal, Herald Tribune, panned program and movement as a pretentious bore. Van Horne, World Telegram & Sun, concluded that message of scraps presented eluded her, while their vulgarity appalled her. Single pro voter Gould, Times, applauded courageous TV program, though he doubted gains from it to current Off Broadway shows.

13 Daughters is a thoroughly delightful and corny old fashioned musical welcoming the 49th state with a blend of very pleasant music, lively dance numbers and an exceedingly charming cast. The same script, pasted together as it is with used fortune cookie jokes, would have been just awful if not left in the tasteful hands of Don Ameche, Monica Boyer and 13 lovely-talented actress-singer-dancers. The exciting dance numbers and the colorful, swift moving sets add to the quiet fun of an enjoyable, relaxing evening that entertains without insulting. The only item missing is a full-blown finale, and in keeping with tradition it could certainly be added.

Roots is a low-key slice of life realistic English drama presenting in extra graphic detail the shallowness of modern British farm-life and the awakening of at least one member. That there is more to this play than is currently presented is evident in the masterful portraits by the two British cast members, William Hansen and Mary Mercier. They have a sharpness lacking in the American cast members, all too intent on accent, stance and costumes to present anything more than very depressing, boring characters.

Saddest rumor in years, which has yet to be denied, is last week's column tip that all of the City Investing Co theatres on W 45 and W 46 are up for sale. This week the Miller Theatre announced that an Italian film will be booked in April ousting its current theatre tenant, Under the Yum Yum Tree. Neither item will hardly make anyone rush into the theatre construction industry in NYC. At the same time the League of NY theatres and the various union heads are quietly preparing for a gigantic war on labor contracts which would only make things worse. Instead of spending valuable time and energy on such cold war activities, both sides should get together fast for a real discussion of how theatre production costs and theatre prices got so high. Unless they do, wage contract battles may be academic.

Imaginative repertory plan of Circle in the Square which will present two full casts in two different productions in one theatre is a fascinating attempt to solve some of Off Broadway's problems. A major reason why Ted Mann and Jose Quintero have made the Circle the only theatre group ever to remain in business Off Broadway for ten years is a solid combination of talent, good taste and their own theatre building. More such production teams owning their playhouses and/or more theatres owned by Circle in the Square would increase the number of worthwhile shows presented Off Broadway.

The problem of out-of-context quote ads on the drama pages is one that could be solved overnight if the daily papers were the least bit interested. While the Times does check quotes from its own critics in theatre ads, they do not bother to check how misleading other quotes might be. It would only take a matter of minutes to check the quotes used against the actual reviews. Several rejections by the ad department of potential ads would clear up the situation, minus legal action.



OUTER BROADWAY THEATRE LETTER

College Theatre

\$5 million Charles Colden Center of Music & Speech, Queens College, Flushing, NY, dedicated this week. It includes 500 seat theatre and an outdoor amphitheatre.

Days of Glory a new play by Danish author Niels Locher to be presented Mar 17 at Playmakers Theatre, Univ of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Univ of Minn graduate students will benefit from \$10,000 annual scholarship fund set up by McKnight Foundation, Minn for participation in Tyrone Guthrie Theatre due to start repertory 1962. Ground breaking ceremonies are scheduled for Mar 28.

Harold Ehrensperger, associate professor, appointed chairman of Theatre Arts Division and director of University Theatre, Boston Univ. School of Fine & Applied Arts... Toys in the Attic author Lillian Hellman received \$1000 Brandeis Univ, Waltham, Mass, Creative Arts Award... Brandeis given 1-1/2% share in profits of Gypsy by David Merrick for its theatre arts program... The Rivals being presented this week at Yale Univ School of Drama.

Community Theatre

Nannie's Night Out a one act play by Sean O'Casey to have its US premiere Mar 13 at Lafayette, Ind, Little Theatre, directed by Dr. Robert Hogan, Purdue Univ... Kismet being presented by Encore Theatre, N. Clark St, Chicago... Little Theatre of Jacksonville, Fla, offering \$150 prize for best new play with 3 set maximum, Entries close Mar 31.

Winter Repertory

Fanny with Christine Mathews being presented at Palm Beach, Fla, Musicarnival... The Curious Savage with Spring Byington current at Phoenix... Borochoy Theatre, Toronto, to open with See How They Run... Bradford Roof, Boston, to present Where's Charley Apr 4 with NY cast of 40.

Ford Grants

Lee Simonson, NY, won a special Ford Foundation grant for comparative study of the leading repertory theatres in Europe.

Summer Playhouses

Melody Fair, North Tcanda, NY to open Jun 6 with Destry Rides Again followed by Take Me Along, Wish You Were Here, Naughty Marietta, Once Upon a Mattress, Meet Me In St Louis.

Theatre Libraries

Library of Congress received gift of 23,000 items from Mrs Minnie Madden Fiske collection from Mrs. Olive Krooken, Union City, NY. It contains programs, photos, etc from 1890-1930.

Shakespeare

American Shakespeare Festival, Stratford, Conn program for season set with- As You Like It Jun 15, Macbeth Jun 16 and Troilus and Cressida Jul 22. Pat Hingle and Jessica Tandy to co-star in Macbeth, Kim Hunter in As You Like It.

Road Tours

Becket will tour after Mar 25 closing with Laurence Olivier switch - ing to Henry II role and Arthur Kennedy playing title role... Gypsy tour with Ethel Merman opens Mar 29 in Rochester, after NY run of 696 performances... The Miracle Worker national company headed by Eileen Brennan opens Apr 12 in Wilmington... The Hostage run in Chicago extended from two to eight weeks... Bye Bye Birdie national company tour opens Apr 24 in San Francisco with Bill Hayes.

Judy Garland tour to be limited to one appearance in each town, and three performances per week. She will be at Carnegie Hall, NYC, Apr 23... Southern Comfort, a new play by Dale and Katherine Eunson to start pre-Broadway tryout tour in May in Santa Barbara, Calif with Steve Allen, produced and directed by Jed Harris... Witherspoon-Grimes Agency folded in Denver.

London

Fiorello! to be presented in Sept by Donald Albery, directed by Peter Coe... Sally Home and Vivien Leigh to co-star in Old Vic's tour of Duel of Angels... David Sumner replaced Richard Johnson, The Devils after second performance when latter left due to illness.

Paris

Gentlemen Prefer Blondes to be presented as a straight play

US Repertory

Theatre Guild-American Repertory Guild Company opened its 15 week European tour in Madrid to good critical notices. Lars Schmidt is seeking to halt group's presentation of The Miracle Worker in Paris and Stockholm claiming he has prior rights.

Taubman, Times, viewed The Skin of Our Teeth and The Glass Menagerie earlier in the week in Washington, D. C. National Theatre and gave productions mild approval. As for the choice of plays he noted that they were safe and sane rather than novel and adventurous. Though leading cast members were fine Times man did not think Wilder production had jelled as yet. Helen Hayes in the Williams' play deploys vast technical skill but lacks the hard intensity and mysterious poetry evoked by the late Laurette Taylor in the famed role. All will improve with playing, critic concluded.

Australia

Lock Up Your Daughters to be presented at Princess, Sydney.

Tryout Calendar

3/9 Carnival-National-Washington

3/13 Far Country- Wilbur, Boston

Happiest Girl in the World-Shubert, Philadelphia 3/6

Current Road Calendar

Five Finger Exercise-Geary-San Francisco 3/13

Flower Drum Song- Shubert-Chicago 11/14

Hostage -Civic, Chicago 2/20



"CD" digests all theatre material in the 2100 pages of 7 NY daily papers of the preceding week. "CD" subscribers are invited to inquire further for more specific data on current reviews, back reviews and out-of-town tryout reviews via mail, phone or drop by for coffee and facts when in NYC.

